IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 16 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 2 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A vibrating knife, comprising:

an excision member which is brought into contact with a target and vibrated in a direction at an angle to a traveling direction in excision so as to excise the target,

wherein said excision member comprises a ~~leading end face located on a forward side in the traveling direction to excise the target~~ first edge formed by sides having hydrophobic surfaces, and a second edge formed by sides having hydrophilic surfaces and arranged at a position opposite to the first edge ~~trailing end face located on a backward side in the traveling direction to separate the excised target from said excision member~~,

wherein when the target is hydrophobic, said first edge is used as a leading end edge located on a forward side in the traveling direction to excise the target, and said second edge is used as a trailing end edge located on a backward side in the traveling direction to separate the excised target from said excision member, and

wherein when the target is hydrophilic, said second edge is used as the leading end edge ~~face is formed of either a hydrophobic surface or hydrophilic surface depending on properties of the target~~, and said first edge is used as the trailing end edge ~~face is formed of a different surface~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The knife according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic ~~face~~ surfaces and the hydrophilic ~~face~~ surfaces are respectively formed by coating with a hydrophobic film and a hydrophilic film.

3. (Withdrawn) A vibrating knife comprising:

an excision portion which is brought into contact with a target and vibrated in a direction at an angle to a traveling direction in excision so as to excise the target;

a coating which is formed on a surface of said excision portion and changes in property to hydrophobicity or hydrophilicity depending on a temperature; and

a heater which is provided on a portion of said excision portion which is located on a forward side in the traveling direction in excision, and supplies heat to said coating.

4. (Withdrawn) The knife according to claim 3, wherein said heater comprises a self temperature control type heater.

5. (Withdrawn) The knife according to claim 3, wherein said coating exhibits the change in property at a temperature higher than a storage temperature for the target and lower than a temperature at which the target deteriorates.

6. (Withdrawn) A vibrating knife comprising:

an excision portion which is brought into contact with a target and vibrated in a direction at an angle to a traveling direction in excision so as to excise the target;

a coating which is formed on a surface of said excision portion and changes in property to hydrophilicity or hydrophobicity depending on a temperature; and

a vibration enlarging portion which is provided on a portion of said excision portion which is located on a forward side in the traveling direction in excision to enlarge the vibration.

7. (Withdrawn) The knife according to claim 6, wherein a vibration amplitude of the portion of said excision portion which is located on the forward side in the traveling direction in excision is enlarged by said vibration enlarging portion.

8. (Withdrawn) The knife according to claim 6, wherein said coating exhibits the change in property at a temperature higher than a storage temperature for the target and lower than a temperature at which the target deteriorates.

9. (Withdrawn) An excision apparatus comprising:

a vibrating knife defined in claim 1;

a knife driving portion which vibrates said vibrating knife; and

a driving control portion which controls said knife driving portion to control a vibration mode of said vibrating knife.

10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said driving control portion controls the vibration mode of said vibrating knife to generate elliptic vibration whose ellipsoid coincides with the traveling direction in excision of said vibrating knife.

11. (Withdrawn) An excision apparatus comprising:

a vibrating knife defined in claim 1;

a knife driving portion which vibrates said vibrating knife; and

a temperature control portion which controls generation of heat by said heater of said vibrating knife.

12. (Withdrawn) An excision apparatus comprising:

a vibrating knife defined in claim 6; and

a knife driving portion which vibrates said vibrating knife.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a vibrating knife, comprising the steps of:

forming an excision portion which is brought into contact with a target and vibrated in a direction at an angle to a traveling direction in excision so as to excise the target;

forming a hydrophobic film on a surface of a portion of the excision portion which is located on a forward side in the traveling direction in excision; and

forming a hydrophilic film on a surface of a portion of the excision portion which is located on a backward side in the traveling direction in excision.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a vibrating knife, comprising the steps of:

forming an excision portion which is brought into contact with a target and vibrated in a direction at an angle to a traveling direction in excision so as to excise the target;

forming, on a surface of the excision portion, a film whose property changes to hydrophobicity or hydrophilicity depending on temperature; and

mounting, on a portion of the excision portion which is located on a forward side in the traveling direction in excision, a heater which supplies heat to the film.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a vibrating knife, comprising the steps of:

forming an excision portion which is brought into contact with a target and vibrated in a direction at an angle to a traveling direction in excision so as to excise the target;

forming, on a surface of the excision portion, a film whose property changes to hydrophilicity or hydrophobicity depending on temperature; and

forming, on a portion of the excision portion which is located on a forward side in the traveling direction in excision, a vibration enlarging portion which enlarges the vibration.

16 and 17. (Cancelled).